



# County of Los Angeles CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE

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WILLIAM T FUJIOKA  
Chief Executive Officer

July 23, 2013

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To: Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas, Chairman  
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From: William T Fujioka  
Chief Executive Officer

## **REPORT BY THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE ON WORKING WITH THE LEGISLATURE TO INCREASE PENALTIES FOR ASSAULTS AGAINST BUS AND RAIL OPERATORS (RELATED TO ITEM NO. 60-C, BOARD MEETING OF JULY 2, 2013)**

On July 2, 2013, the Board adopted a motion by Supervisor Antonovich to direct the Chief Executive Office to work with the Legislature to increase the penalties for assaults against bus and rail operators, with a report back to the Board in 30 days.

### **Background**

In May 2013, two bus operators of the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) were attacked in unprovoked assaults, one in Studio City and another in West Hills. Both bus operators were struck after requesting fare from the assailants and suffered from concussions and other injuries.

As a result of these assaults, Supervisor Antonovich introduced a motion to seek further legislative protection for the County's rail and bus operators by increasing the penalties for assaults against them.

### **Existing Law**

Existing law prescribes that every person who commits an assault with a weapon or by force likely to produce great bodily injury upon the operator, driver, or passenger on a bus or other motor vehicle, when the driver is engaged in the performance of his or her duties, and where the person who commits the assault knows that the victim is engaged in the performance of his or her duties, shall be punished by imprisonment in State prison for three, four, or five years.

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Existing law also prescribes that an assault committed against any person on the property of a public transportation provider shall be punished by a fine up to \$2,000, or imprisonment in a county jail up to one year, or both.

### **Current Status**

While the July 2, 2013 Board motion directed this office to report back in 30 days, the Legislature adjourned for its summer recess on July 3, 2013 and will not reconvene until August 12, 2013 when they will resume consideration of legislation introduced earlier in the session. In addition, as previously reported, the deadline for introduction of legislative proposals for the first year of the 2013-14 Legislative Session was February 22, 2013.

### **Next Steps**

Unless otherwise directed by the Board, consistent with the intent of the motion, this office will engage in the following efforts:

- Work with Board offices to gain further direction on the type of specific penalty enhancements the Board wishes to pursue in Sacramento;
- Work with legislative staff from Metro to discuss opportunities to work collaboratively to pursue and/or support legislation to further protect bus and rail operators and increase the penalties for assaults against them; and
- Include appropriate policy in the County's Legislative Agenda for the second year of the 2013-14 Legislative Session and develop a legislative strategy on this issue to pursue legislation in January 2014.

We will continue to keep you advised.

WTF:RA  
MR:KA:KL:ma

c: Executive Office, Board of Supervisors  
County Counsel  
Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority